

A duplicate copy of this abstract is attached on a separate sheet.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 3, 5, 8, 21 and 25.

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for forming reclosable bags, wherein said bags are formed from a continuously traveling film (12) fitted with at least one closure tape (60), wherein the apparatus comprises a set of heat-sealed jaws (30) provided transversely relative to the travel direction of the film (12), at least one sensor (100) that detects if the tape (60) is present or not on the film in a predetermined position relative to said heat-sealed jaws, and means suitable to reposition correctly the film in regard of the heat-sealed jaws when the sensor detects a default in the position of the tape, so as to eliminate drift due to the elasticity of the film.

2. (Twice Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sensor (100) is formed by a mechanical feeler having a pusher (102) associated with an electrical sensor (104).

6. (Twice Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising means (16) for shaping the film into a tubular bag blank and means (18) suitable for filing the tubular bag blank before applying said film to said heat-sealed jaws.

11. (Twice Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the closure tape (60) is chosen in the group comprising complementary closure strips, tear/cut tapes, adhesive tapes, metal tapes for closing by folding.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

19. (Twice amended) A method of forming packaging reclosable bags using a continuously traveling film fitted with at least one closure tape (60), wherein the method comprises the steps of cyclically sealing the film with a set of heat-sealed jaws (30) provided transversely relative to the travel direction of the film (12), detecting the presence of the tape (60) by means of at least one sensor (100) in a predetermined position relative to said heat-sealed jaws, and repositioning correctly the film in regard of the heat-sealed jaws when the sensor detects a default in the position of the tape, so as to eliminate drift due to the elasticity of the film.

Please add the following claims 26 to 33.

--26. (New) An apparatus for forming reclosable bags, wherein said bags are formed from a continuously traveling film (12) fitted with at least one closure tape (60), wherein the apparatus comprises a set of heat-sealed jaws (30) provided transversely relative to the travel direction of the film (12), at least one sensor (100) that detects the presence of the tape (60) when the tape (60) is in a predetermined position relative to said heat-sealed jaws, said sensor generating a first signal when it detects a thickness corresponding to the presence of the closure tape and generating a second signal corresponding to a default signal when it detects a thickness less than the thickness of the closure tape, and means suitable to reposition correctly the film in regard of the heat-sealed jaws when the sensor detects a default in the position of the tape, so as to eliminate drift due to the elasticity of the film.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

27. (New) An apparatus for forming reclosable bags, wherein said bags are formed from a continuously traveling film (12) fitted with at least one closure tape (60), wherein the apparatus comprises a set of heat-sealed jaws (30) provided transversely relative to the travel direction of the film (12), at least one sensor (100) that detects the presence of the tape (60) when the tape (60) is in a predetermined position relative to said heat-sealed jaws, and wherein said sensor (100) is formed by a mechanical feeler having a pusher (102) associated with an electrical sensor (104).

28. (New) An apparatus for forming reclosable bags, wherein said bags are formed from a continuously traveling film (12) fitted with at least one closure tape (60), wherein the apparatus comprises a set of heat-sealed jaws (30) provided transversely relative to the travel direction of the film (12), at least one sensor (100) that detects the presence of the tape (60) when the tape (60) is in a predetermined position relative to said heat-sealed jaws, and wherein said sensor (100) comprises dual feelers (100a, 100b) that are juxtaposed in the longitudinal travel direction of the film (12).

29. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein the sensor (100) is formed by two mechanical feelers each having a pusher (102) associated with an electrical sensor (104).

30. (New) An apparatus for forming reclosable bags, wherein said bags are formed from a continuously traveling film (12) fitted with at least one closure tape (60), wherein the apparatus comprises a set of heat-sealed jaws (30) provided transversely relative to the travel direction of the film (12), two sensors (100) disposed close to respective edges of the bag along a generator line that is oblique relative to the travel

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

direction of the film (12), each sensor (100) detecting the presence of the tape (60) when the tape (60) is in a predetermined position relative to said heat-sealed jaws.

31. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein each sensor (100) is formed by a mechanical feeler having a pusher (102) associated with an electrical sensor (104).

32. (New) An apparatus for forming reclosable bags, wherein said bags are formed from a continuously traveling film (12) fitted with at least one closure tape (60), wherein the apparatus comprises a set of heat-sealed jaws (30) provided transversely relative to the travel direction of the film (12), two sensors (100) disposed close to respective edges of the bag along a generator line that is oblique relative to the travel direction of the film (12), each sensor (100) detecting the presence of the tape (60) when the tape (60) is in a predetermined position relative to said heat-sealed jaws, and wherein each sensor (100) comprises dual feelers (100a, 100b) that are juxtaposed in the longitudinal travel direction of the film (12).

33. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 32, wherein each sensor (100) is formed by two mechanical feelers each having a pusher (102) associated with an electrical sensor (104).--

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com